

"The essential ingredient in the preservation of open space must be a heightened sense of stewardship on the part of those of us who use the land and those of us who own the land."

Stewart L. Udall, in the Foreword to Stewardship



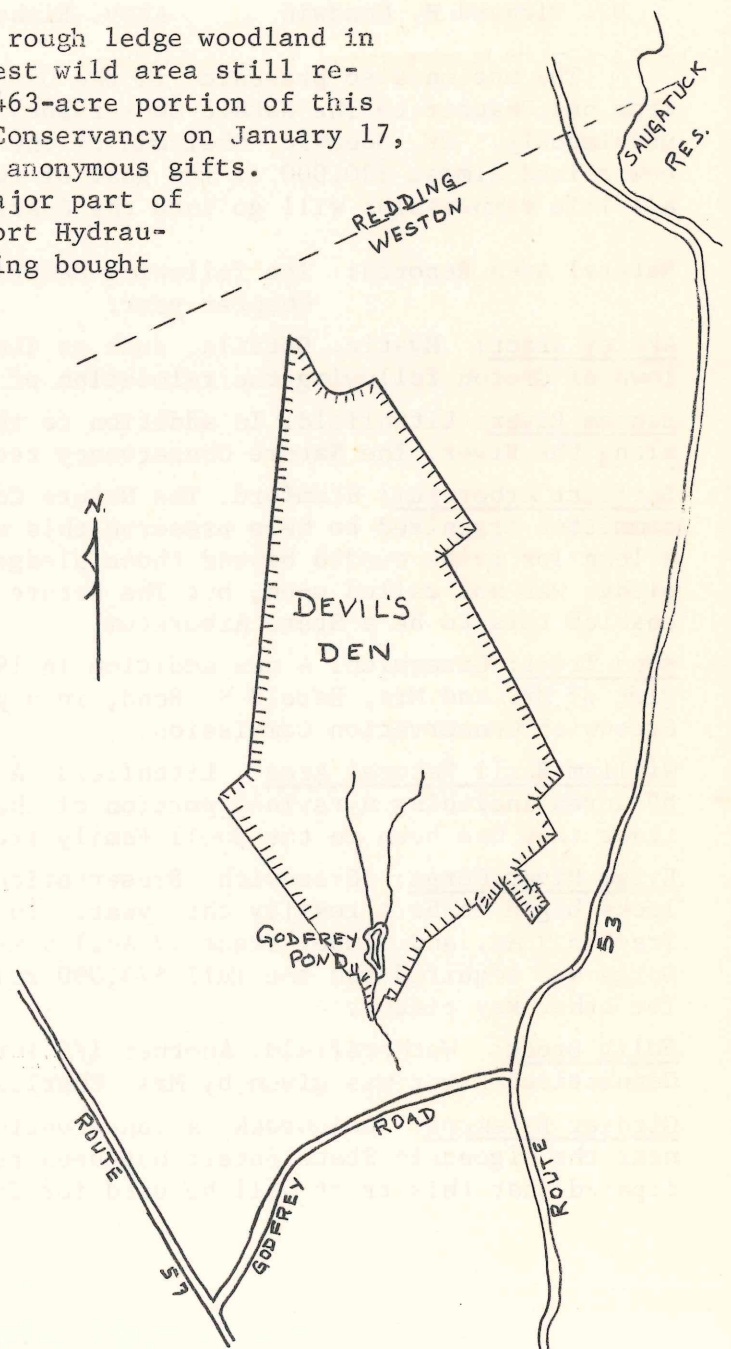
THE DEVIL'S DEN

Devil's Den, a 1200-acre tract of rough ledge woodland in Weston, Connecticut, is perhaps the largest wild area still remaining in southwestern Connecticut. A 463-acre portion of this tract became the property of The Nature Conservancy on January 17, 1966, through purchases made possible by anonymous gifts. Another 385 acres are under option. A major part of this tract was acquired from the Bridgeport Hydraulic Company, with two smaller parcels being bought from private owners.

The "Den", once partly owned by Yale University, and acquired years ago by the Bridgeport Hydraulic Company, includes a complete watershed draining into a charming old mill pond known as Godfrey Pond. Large oaks with an understory of mountain laurel are a conspicuous feature of the drier ledgy places and the presence of old Indian shelters attest its pre-colonial occupation.

The name of this exciting new Natural Area came about because of a peculiar marking in a large stone fancifully resembling a human footprint yet too large for a man; the early settlers ascribed its origin to the Devil. This collection of "Long Lots" (narrow strips of colonial woodland grants) will be maintained by the Conservancy in its natural state under the supervision of a Project Committee "for conservation of its natural beauty and resources; research through universities or by supervised students of plant and animal communities; and other phases of ecology and conservation; and nature study by and through spiritual refreshment of responsible visitors."

This is indeed a piece of stewardship of the first magnitude.



REPORTS FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

Election of officers was held at the Annual Meeting on November 6, 1965 at the Nature Center of New Canaan. The Chapter officers were elected as follows:

Mrs. Agnew A. Talcott, Chairman Mrs. P. Eric Plehn, Secretary
Mr. Robert F. Kunz, Vice Chairman Mr. Richard M. Bowers, Treasurer

and re-elected as members of the Board of Directors were:

Mr. Alexander Adams Mrs. Henry S. Beers

The amendment to the By-Laws presented in the October 1956 Newsletter was passed unanimously and as a result the following past Chairmen are now members of the Board of Directors:

Dr. Richard H. Goodwin Atty. Richard M. Bowers Mrs. John M. Hamilton

The motion also presented in the October 1965 Newsletter to make a gift of \$1,000 from our Chapter to The Nature Conservancy National Guaranty & Income Fund was passed unanimously. Dr. Goodwin, Chairman of the National Board reported that the Fund has now raised almost \$80,000 of its goal of two million dollars. He also announced that all life memberships will go into the Guaranty & Income Fund.

Natural Area Reports: The following Natural Areas have had activity during the past Chapter year:

Akeley Tract: Mystic. Details, such as fencing, are still to be worked out with the Town of Groton following the relocation of a town road abutting this tract.

Bantam River: Litchfield. In addition to the two anchor pieces and ten covenants held along the River, The Nature Conservancy received two additional covenants this year.

Bartlett Arboretum: Stamford. The Nature Conservancy gave assistance to the citizens committee organized to help preserve this world famous 62-acre arboretum, by pledging a loan for funds needed beyond those pledged by federal and municipal sources. This pledge was not called upon, but The Nature Conservancy support when needed has now enabled this to be a State Arboretum.

Bond Tract: Greenwich. A new addition in 1965, this 7.4-acre wetland tract is the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Harold S. Bond, in a project worked out together with the Greenwich Conservation Commission.

William Buell Natural Area: Litchfield. A new addition in 1965, this is a gift of 60 acres including a ravined portion of the Bantam River from Dr. Murray Buell of a tract that had been in the Buell Family from pre-Revolutionary times.

Byram River Gorge: Greenwich. Preservation of this gorge with its 230-year old hemlocks began to be a reality this year. In addition to prior anchor pieces (Warburg Tract 3.9 Ac. and Gimbel Tract 17 Ac.) a key 50.9 acre tract in the center of the Gorge was acquired and the full \$75,000 raised before purchase. Activities continue for other key pieces.

Folly Brook: Wethersfield. Another 1/5 interest in this 13-acre tract along the Connecticut River was given by Mrs. Charles Goodwin, thus TNC now has a 4/5 interest.

Girdler Easement: Colebrook. A conservation easement on a 8½-acre tract of woodland near the Algonquin State Forest has been received from John G. Girdler. It is anticipated that this tract will be used for forestry research.

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STATE PROGRAMS: IN CONSERVATION AND IN PESTICIDE CONTROL

At our Annual Meeting in November we had two guest speakers: Mr. Joseph A. Ward, Jr. of the Conservation Section of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Mr. Brainerd T. Peck, Consultant for the State Board of Pesticide Control. They spoke to us as follows:

IN CONSERVATION -

Several phases of conservation as seen from the state level were discussed by Mr. Ward. He first described the Town Conservation Commission program - 64 commissions or committees have been established in the State since the enabling act was passed in 1961 by the State Legislature. Their activities have ranged from actively establishing a small nature center to, in some cases, being concerned only with open space. Most of these commissions are members of the Conn. Association of Conservation Commissions. This association attempts to assist by co-ordinating local work, informing of state aids and programs and helping local commissions establish their programs. Mr. Ward felt that one program that the local Conservation Commissions might very beneficially undertake is to offer programs of conservation education to their town's citizenry. The Extension Service and the Soil Conservation Service could both be of help in this area. A special program of conservation education might be offered to Planning and Zoning Commissions to aid them with their town-wide planning.

"Connecticut Conservation News", a monthly bulletin published by the Conn. Association of Conservation Commissions goes to each member of the Town Conservation Commissions throughout the state. It is hoped that circulation may be increased to reach all those in Connecticut interested in conservation so that they may be kept better informed of State conservation efforts and problems. (To this effect, Mr. Ward has sent our Chapter copies of the December and January Bulletins which we are sending out with this Newsletter. If there are any of our membership who desire to continue receiving issues of the CCN and currently do not, would they please signify so on the tear out on page 4 and return this to Mr. Ward so that such names may be added to his mailing list.)

IN PESTICIDE CONTROL -

Speaking in the afternoon Mr. Peck described the set up of the Board of Pesticide Control. He read the Annual Report of the Board which covered their past year's activities. He emphasized that chemical control of infestation of pests such as insects, rodents and weeds was essential to the maintenance of our standard of living. He related the nearly complete abandonment of DDT although the Board still permits commercial application of DDT from the ground. But in answer to a question from the floor, he stated that no memorandum is issued by the Board concerning harmful effects of Sevin to bees and aquatic insects to towns known to be considering aerial spraying of gypsy moth. It was urged to Mr. Peck that the Board consider the giving of known information to such towns to allow all such facts to be considered by these towns before deciding to spend public funds to spread chemical poisons by airplane. Mr. Peck related that seven towns used matching funds for aerial spraying programs last year for a state reimbursement cost of \$49,741. He also spoke of the work being done at the State Agricultural Experiment Station on a parasite control of the gypsy moth.

Several questions and answers followed his talk.

RESOLUTIONS REVIEWED BY CONTROL BOARD

At a subsequent meeting of the Board of Pesticide Control held in December, three resolutions to it from the Conn. Chapter of TNC were reviewed. The first resolution requested in view of Food & Drug Administration tests that Sevin be banned for aerial spraying except under agricultural emergency. To this the Board replied that the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture experts have not modified their approvals of Sevin as result of the FDA experiments and that federal and state conservation authorities

RESOLUTIONS (continued)

continue to view Sevin as one of the safest insecticides for area spraying.

The second resolution asked that DDT be banned from use in commercial ground spraying in keeping with recommendations of the U.S. President's Scientific Advisory Committee in 1963. The response seemed to indicate that the Board would eventually ban commercial ground application although the language was ambiguous.

The third resolution requested that no chemicals be approved for aerial wholesale forest insect control without first having sound ecological studies completed. The response was that "no new chemicals will be added to the Board's list until clearance has been obtained from the various federal agencies involved as well as final review by the Board." No indication was given as what "final review by the Board" would constitute.

Conclusions: The Board of Pesticide Control relies largely upon what federal agencies say is safe, especially the FDA. This policy seems unlikely to change - the need for anything more must be proven to them. There appears to be no plans for accelerating environmental protection from pesticides. They seem to realize that DDT should be banned for commercial ground application but for some unstated reason seem reluctant to give our environment that safeguard now.

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal year: 7/1/64 to 6/30/65

Receipts	\$ 2,955.19
Disbursements	<u>2,547.59</u>
Increase in Cash	407.60
Cash Balance 7/1/64	<u>2,385.71</u>
Cash Balance 6/30/65	\$ 2,793.31
Interim Period: 7/1/65 to 11/6/65*	
(* Annual Meeting)	
Receipts	\$156.28
Disbursements	16.84
Net Increase	<u>139.44</u>
Cash Balance 11/6/65	\$ 2,932.75

IN CONSERVATION (continued)

Public Act 609 - or Sec. 7-131k of the Conn. Statutes - the recent Legislative Enactment which provides protections from condemnation of open spaces was also a topic on which Mr. Ward spoke. He described a variety of questions he had received concerning interpretation of this new statute and noted that upon checking with state officials, had received a variety of answers. He presently is awaiting an official answer from the Attorney General's Office and plans to publish the questions and their answers in his News Bulletin. In connection with this, the State Highway Department did on August 23rd, 1965 send letters and maps to each town asking them to designate their open space. (Ed. Note: See article concerning this in the Conn. Chapter Newsletter of October 1965, page 6.)

Mr. Ward referred to the new publication "Stewardship" (see article on page 7). He felt that The Nature Conservancy was one of the best groups in our State to do this job effectively in Connecticut. He then discussed several considerations that are part of land gifts: self-endowment, uses allowed or not allowed, areas open to the public or private, etc. and felt that "Stewardship" puts several of these thoughts together well.

Mr. Ward presented to us all many interesting phases of conservation on the state level; we hope to continue to keep close contact with him in the future. Please clip out the form below if you wish to receive his Newsletter.

To: Mr. Joseph A. Ward, Jr.
Dept. of Agric. & Natural Resources
129B State Office Building
Hartford, Connecticut

I am interested in continuing to receive the "Conn. Conservation News".
Please put my name on your mailing list.
Thank you.

Name _____

Address _____

TNC-CC 1/66

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ONE

The following condensation of a monologue by Gloria D. Pond illustrates how the efforts of one person, dedicated to a purpose, can achieve much. Think of how much could be accomplished in many phases of conservation if each one of us put a similar effort into that part of conservation which is our particular concern!

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Despite the furor created by Silent Spring, by Sen. Abraham Ribicoff's committee hearings producing further scientific bases for Miss Carson's warnings, and by the testimony of doctors, ecologists, ornithologists, biologists and conservation-minded officials, last Winter I discovered authorities I respected otherwise were still oblivious to the dangers DDT poses to wildlife and mankind. With the support of a scientist-husband, I spent last Spring proving that the individual is not obsolete.

First, I deluged the business manager of our elm-shaded school with reprints and clippings exposing the consequences of persistent sprays. Medical diagnoses of leukemia, liver and kidney damage and nervous disturbance are not difficult to find. The sheaf of materials was forwarded to the Headmaster who had read Silent Spring and had done some research of his own. Generously he gave this faculty wife an hour of his busy Spring, and ordered the less hazardous methoxychlor for school spraying that month.

Meanwhile letters went to the Town Council, the mayor and local papers. I learned the Council could only stop purchase of additional poison, but the Mayor controlled the barrels already owned.

"Baby knees may wipe poison from chemical-coated sidewalks," I wrote, warning of predator and bird kills, accumulation in worms that kill robins for years to come, and dangers to man. I

urged sanitation by pruning (used by Buffalo, N. Y. which loses but $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% of her elms annually), studies of nutrition and even systemic poisons. I learned tree statistics, prices of poisons, opinions of the local tree warden and the Conservation Commission, and that the State Agriculture people seemed to be working against me. The State Entomologist assured a local tree "expert" by mail that DDT seemed the best delaying action against Dutch Elm Disease, regardless of its hazards. A state pesticide inspector speaking to the garden club did not explain the dangers of DDT and left the feeling that there was nothing to fear from it. A soil conservationist assured a meeting of conservationists that DDT had not been indicted in the study of the vanishing osprey; yet Dr. Peter Ames had spoken here a week before developing a very good case against pesticides found in every sterile egg. Bureaucratic lag, simple chemical solutions for pests were the unsatisfactory answers I got to inquiries about DDT usage.

The first break came when the Mayor promised that trees before my home would not be sprayed. A visit to the local public health director resulted in a newspaper article warning citizens to protect their children as well as their auto paint from spray. A father, reading this, registered his own complaint, but spraying began.

Dr. Stephen Collins, of Southern Connecticut State College, spoke to a school class after they had read Silent Spring. Two newspapers carried the story; a teacher discussed the problem with students; a clergyman mentioned it to congregants. Like-minded people were coming forward.

School trees were sprayed (I wrote observations to the Headmaster); letters to seven PTAs, local chapter of American Cancer Society, property owners associations and the historical society met with no results.

The minister who chairs our Committee for Human Rights agreed that destruc-

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YALE NATURAL PRESERVE, NEW HAVEN

This is the title of the first in a new semi-popular bulletin Series entitled The Vegetation of Connecticut Natural Areas, published by the State Geological & Natural History Survey. Written by Dr. Frank E. Egler, Director of Aton Forest and Dr. William A. Niering, of Connecticut College, it describes and interprets the vegetation of this Preserve. Diagrams and photographs help in understanding the vegetational pattern and when looking for dominant plants in the area.

This Preserve has a typical aspect of Connecticut vegetation and thus this booklet may interest people as parts could apply similarly to like areas of their own acquaintance.

Over 30 such Natural Areas are in the State. The authors are doing similar studies on other areas. It is hoped that the second bulletin will follow soon. The Series is designated as a contribution to the public to improve its awareness and enjoyment of the scientific, educational and cultural values of the Natural Areas in Connecticut.

This bulletin may be ordered from the State Librarian (25¢ plus tax), Hartford, Connecticut 06115.

BARN ISLAND NATURAL AREA

The Barn Island Natural Area and the Brucker Marsh (in the Barn Island complex) have been the objects of a study now produced in a master's thesis presented to Connecticut College by Alfred Christopher Gross and entitled "Vegetation of the Brucker Marsh and the Barn Island Natural Area, Stonington, Connecticut, January 1966."

The Barn Island Natural Area is one that has been set aside by the State Board of Fisheries & Game for a period of three years to see if such designation would be of permanent worth for scientific and research use.

This thesis is a study of the myriad complexities of tidal marsh ecology and the ways they can and cannot be disturbed. It is now on file at the Con-

EFFECTIVENESS (continued)

tion of the environment is a loss of those rights and asked for a program to inform members and the public. With difficulty and delay a speaker was finally procured but people committed to this problem are very busy. On the day scheduled for tree budget hearings I had letters in both papers, but the hearings were cancelled for lack of notice. When the State Health Commission listed Silent Spring as "not recommended" I got word to the Mayor of Sen. Ribicoff's retort.

Suddenly the breaks came. The school converted to sanitation plans rather than spraying. The Town Library invited Dr. Ames to discuss pesticides and the declining bird population. The Mayor attended, did a bit of research the next day, banned DDT from his own orchard, and told me that our town would be spared future doses of this chemical death.

Now I'm trying to get public water supplies tested regularly as we know sprayed areas drain into them. I am watching to see what program is used at a proposed public golf course. I am watching to see what lesser poison is used for town elms - and whether that will need study and protest. The garden club is converting to more resistant plantings of public places. I hope that our enlightened Mayor will be re-elected regardless of party. Solving these problems on the local level seems a good way to obviate the need for large scale and expensive efforts, and is one available to each one of us.

BOND TRACT: A NEW GIFT

A pretty piece of wild wetland with a lovely stream coursing through, in Greenwich, Connecticut is the subject of a gift last month from Mr. and Mrs. Harold S. Bond to The Nature Conservancy. This 7.4-acre tract, in the midst of growing megalopolis still provides habitat for such wildlife as pheasant, raccoon and others. This stewardship benefits a whole neighborhood.

NATURE COURSES IN LITCHFIELD

The White Memorial Foundation has met with such success with the following series of nature courses, that we believe perhaps our Chapter members active in other Sanctuaries and Nature Centers would be interested in such a program.

The Foundation expanded its educational program last Spring by beginning a new series of nature courses for adults at the Litchfield Nature Center and Museum. The series titled Spring Comes to the Litchfield Hills was led by Dr. Raymond Kienholz, recently retired professor of forestry at the University of Connecticut and former director of the Connecticut Conservation Workshop. Gordon Loery, White Foundation Conservationist, helped lead field trips and several specialists, including Mary Watrous of the Hartford High School Biology Department, joined the staff for one-night teaching sessions. The enrollment fee for the course was \$10.

Fifty-four residents of northwestern Connecticut, ranging in age from 16 to 70 met on six Friday evenings in April and May for the programs. Each evening began with a short field trip, then supper together (box lunch style with coffee provided) and this was followed by an informal lecture and discussion. Each program emphasized a different topic but they all aimed to help people observe more of what is going on around them in the world of nature and to appreciate and understand more of what they experience.

Encouraged by the success of this first course, the Foundation offered a second series, Fall Comes to the Litchfield Hills in September and October - again a series of six with Dr. Kienholz and his associates in charge. Plans are now being made for additional courses: Marine Life by Dr. William Jahoda in March; local geology by Charles Warren in April and May; bird life by Gordon Loery in May.

STEWARDSHIP

"Stewardship is not a point of view but an action." So states the summarization of the book Stewardship prepared by the Open Space Action Committee. While this 82-page book was prepared to meet the pressures for open space in the New York Metropolitan Region, its message to private owners of open land remaining in any growing community is apropos.

To those who have a sensitivity toward land in their charge and a desire to preserve its aesthetic and natural resource value, this book presents many ways in which individual land philanthropy may fit not only the owner's desires for the future of his land but also give society the benefit of permanently preserving some of the splendors of Nature.

Land philanthropy is a complex affair. The motives for it can be many and the means by which such can be accomplished are varied. Stewardship goes into some of these categories. It gives illustrations of what has been done by several "stewards". It discusses many forms of giving, of restricting, of protective developing.

To anyone concerned with our remaining open space, this book is recommended. Its value lies not just in its inspiration to move one to acts of stewardship but in its excellent discussion of many alternatives possible and its informative appendix full of helps to one interested in stewardship.

(For a copy, contact the Open Space Action Committee, 205 East 42nd St., New York, N.Y. \$3.00 paper cover; \$6.00 hard cover.)

BANTAM RIVER BROCHURE

One of the types of land philanthropy described in Stewardship is the case of "The Bantam River - Accumulating Value by Covenant." The Connecticut Chapter has had reprints made of an 8-page extract including this story. One free copy will be sent to each TNC member upon request to the Newsletter Editor; additional copies are available for 10¢ each.

NATURAL AREA REPORTS (continued)

Plehn Tract: Litchfield. A key piece of about 12 acres adjacent to the Wm. Buell Natural Area has been acquired and given to The Nature Conservancy by Mrs. P. Eric Plehn to be included in the Buell Natural Area.

Taine Mountain: Burlington. Two additional deeds were received from Mr. John Dunning in October 1965 thereby adding 37.83 acres to this 189-acre tract.

Walcott Preserve (Beckley Bog): Norfolk. The legal action needed to clarify title is in the final stages for the Anstett Tract - a 230-acre addition to this Preserve. About \$13,000 is still needed to repay the loan made by National TNC for this purchase and funds need to be raised to meet this amount.

CONSERVATION DATES TO REMEMBER:

February 15 - "Clean Water for Conn." by Dr. Thomas F. Malone is the topic of a dinner meeting of the Service Bureau for Women's Organizations at 6:00 PM in Moses Fox Lounge of G. Fox & Co. (Reservations \$2.75 must be made with the Bureau at 956 Main St., Hartford by February 12th.) All interested men and women welcome.

April 28 - "Water Crisis! Real or Imaginary?" is the topic of the address by Gov. John H. Chafee (R.I.) to the Annual Conservation Conference presented by the Natural Resources Council of Conn. Inc. Save the day for panels on water pollution at Restland Farms, Rte 17, Northford, Connecticut.

May - A series of three films on Water-Land-Air, probing into the problems of pollution of each, the projections of what may lay in the future and some positive action occurring today. Educational Channel 24 in Hartford; watch for dates and times.

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

The Connecticut Chapter has long felt there should be one person or committee in charge of membership. With pleasure it is announced that Mr. F. G. Jewett of Lyme, Connecticut is now our Membership Chairman. He has many plans and ideas, and soon hopes to round out a committee to help him. Any volunteers?

One part of his job would be successful immediately if each member brought in one new member.

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The Editor invites any comments concerning, or articles for the Chapter Newsletter.

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